



Down under: The shaft inspection system is lowered

Deep divers: Mark Hatfield helps lower Kat Mercer into the shaft

Pictures: Richard Harvey

DIVERS CLEAR SHAFTS FOR HIDDEN TREASURE

A TEAM of divers is helping to protect water resources in Hampshire and unearthing treasures from the deep. Divers from the Water Services Support Group have cleared two underground shafts, more than 25 metres deep, which lead to a natural underground water source supplying the Otterbourne treatment works. During the work they unearthed an old water-sampling bottle and cleared a timber platform and debris from the Victorian underground shafts, which were hand built between 1894 and 1926.

Lowered

The work was carried out after a survey using CCTV revealed the timber which lined the shafts was beginning to decay and needed relining. The project was carried out over three weeks, with a team of seven divers taking it in turns to dive, supervise and monitor the operation. A standby diver was also ready at all times in case of any problems. The divers were lowered down the shaft, which was about two metres wide, in a cage and spent 40 minutes collecting as



Deep debris: Structural Engineer Dave Wood (right) and Diver Mark Manning examine material from the shafts

much debris as possible before returning to the surface. Before leaving the water, each diver had to spend two minutes just under the surface decompressing to avoid any negative health effects. Southern Water's Engineer Dave Wood



Lotta bottle: Health and Safety Advisor Andy Nicholls (left) and Dave Wood, inspect an old sampling bottle recovered from the borehole

said: "This was a very complex exercise requiring great expertise and very strict health and safety considerations. "Because of the extreme depths involved, in excess of 25 metres, it was possible for the divers to work on the bottom of the shaft for only a maximum

of 40 minutes each day. The team has done a great job and the work will ensure the system will continue to yield the maximum amount of water, ready to supply to customers." The divers will return to the site in March to continue the project.

Dan's key insight on Iraq

MANAGERS gained an insight into the work of the Territorial Army when they visited the battalion of Southern Water Project Manager Dan Harris, a volunteer who served in Iraq. Dan, who was stationed in Basra during the conflict, is now back behind his desk in Falmer. To thank Southern Water for its support while Dan was away, his managers were invited to tour his battalion's annual camp on Salisbury Plain. K3 Business Manager Wayne Middleton, Project Manager Dean Moore and Site Quality Manager

Andy Stock were given an insight into the work of the 103 Battalion REME (Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers) regiment of the army and a briefing on operations in Iraq. Valuable They saw demonstrations of battlefield first aid, radio operation and vehicle recovery. They were also able to experience a little of what life was like in Iraq by sampling the battlefield rations. Dean said: "Our visit gave us a real insight into the valuable work

of the reservists. We also saw what Dan gets up to in his spare time which, when you consider he has a day job too, was a real eye-opener." While in Iraq, Dan was part of a REME (LAD) Light Aid Detachment attached to the Armoured Division of the Royal Signals at Basra Airport. His section was responsible for ensuring all their military vehicles were operating safely and reliably. Also serving as reservists in Iraq were Nigel Mills, of Maintenance Services, and Process Operator Graham Plumridge.



Thank you: Daniel Harris (left) with (l to r) K3 West Business Manager Wayne Middleton, and K3 West Project Managers Dean Moore and Andy Stock at 103 Battalion REME. Picture: Reserve Link newsletter